Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04640 061502Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----018201 061504Z /14

O 061446Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2419
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

SECRETTEL AVIV 4640

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, LE

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: LEBANESE GENDARMERIE

REF: BEIRUT 1920

1. AT LUNCH TODAY (APRIL 6) ON BOARD NIMITZ, DCM
QUERIED IDF CHIEF OF STAFF DESIGNATE, GENERAL EITAN,
ABOUT ALLEGED IDF REFUSAL TO PERMIT 12 GENDARMES FROM
TYRE TO CONTINUE JOURNEY FROM ABBASIYAH TO TAKE UP
POSITIONS AT QASIMIYAH BRIDGE (APRA 5 REFTEL). EITAN
WAS FULLY BRIEFED ON INCIDENT. CLAIMED THERE
HAD BEEN NO PRIOR COORDINATION BY UNIFIL WITH IDF ON
MOVEMENT OF GENDARMES. GROUP HAD SHOWED UP AT CHECKPOINT
ARMED WITH KALASHNIKOVS AND IN ABSENCE OF ANY INFO ON THEIR
IDENTITY OR INTENT IDF GUARDS HAD CORRECTLY TURNED
THEM BACK.

2. WHEN DCM REMONSTRATED THAT GENDARMES WERE ACCOMPANIED BY UNIFIL TROOPS AND THAT SURELY UNIFIL COMMANDER HAD PROPERLY IDENTIFIED THEM, EITAN REPEATED THAT IN ABSENCE SECRET

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OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION BY UNIFIL TO IDF THERE COULD BE NO MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE GENDARMARIE THROUGH IDF LINES.

3. DCM REMINDED EITAN THAT WEIZMAN HAD REPEATEDLY STRESSED TO US HIS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN HASTENING MOVEMENT OF GOL PRESENCE INTO SOUTH LEBANON. WE HAD TAKEN THIS TO BE AN OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF POLICY. WERE WE

WRONG? EITAN'S ONLY RESPONSE CONTINUED TO BE THAT ALL MOVEMENTS OF ANY UNITS, UNIFIL OR GOL, MUST REPEAT MUST BE COORDINATED WITH IDF BEFORE TAKING PLACE. HE HAD INSTRUCTED GOI LIAISON OFFICER IN JERUSALEM TO MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR TO SIILASVUO THIS MORNING.

4. HE ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT LACK OF EFFECTIVENESS OF GOL LIAISON OFFICE IN NAQURA. SAID OFFICER HAD NO AUTHORITY AND HAD BEEN ABSENT FROM HIS POST MUCH OF THE TIME. HE ALLEGED HE CURRENTLY IS IN BEIRUT TENDING A SICK CHILD AND THERE IS NO ONE IN NAQURA REPRESENTING GOL.

5. ON SUBJECT OF WITHDRAWAL, EITAN SAID HE WAS RETURNING TO TEL AVIV THIS AFTERNOON TO MEET WITH SIILASVUO, GUR AND CO. FOR ANOTHER CUT AT DRAWING UP A WITHDRAWAL PLAN. THIS DREW AN EMBITTERED COMMENT THAT "YOU ARE LEANING TOO HARD ON US. GET OFF OUR BACKS FOR A WHILE." HE WAS TOLD THAT SOME PEOPLE ON OCCASION NEED TO BE SAVED FROM THEMSELVES.

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04640 070854Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O R 070836Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2429 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

SECRETTEL AVIV 4640

EXDIS

TEL AVIV 4640SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SECSTATE, INFO IMMEDIATE JERUSALEM, BEIRUT, PRIORITY TO USUN AND DAMASCUS. BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

SECRETTEL AVIV 4640

EXDIS

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- 2. WHEN DCM REMONSTRATED THAT GENDARMES WERE ACCOMPANED BY UNIFIL TROOPS AND THAT SURELY UNIFIL COMMANDER HAD PROPERLY IDENTIFIED THEM, EITAN REPEATED THAT IN ABSENCE OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION BY UNIFIL TO IDF THERE COULD BE NO MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE GENDARMARIE THROUGH IDF LINES.
- 3. DCM REMINDED EITAN THAT WEIZMAN HAD REPEATEDLY STRESSED TO US HIS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN HASTENING MOVEMENT OF GOL PRESENCE INTO SOUTH LEBANON. WE HAD TAKEN THIS TO BE AN OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF POLICY. WERE WE WRONG? EITAN'S ONLY RESPONSE CONTINUED TO BE THAT ALL MOVEMENTS OF ANY UNITS, UNIFIL OR GOL, MUST REPEAT MUST BE COORDINATED WITH IDF BEFORE TAKING PLACE. HE HAD INSTRUCTED GOI LIAISON OFFICER IN JERUSALEM TO MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR TO SIILASVUO THIS MORNING.
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LEWIS UNQUOTE LEWIS

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Control Number: n/a

Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, POLICE FORCES, TRAVEL CONTROLS, BORDER CONTROLS

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Disposition Event:
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Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: cfb3d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: ANOMALY

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Status: NATIVE Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: LEBANESE GENDARMERIE

TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, LE

To: STATE Type: TE

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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